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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/876,290 Confirmation No.: 9540
Applicants: Yoshiyuki Yanagisawa et al.
Filed: June 7, 2001
TC/A.U.: 2822
Examiner: David E. Graybill
Docket No.: 075834.00085
Customer No.: 33448

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 8, 2005, Applicants elect, with traverse, the first species as seen in Figure 4 and which is described by claims 1-2, 7, 11, 14, 16-21. Applicants therefore await consideration and examination of elected claims 1-2, 7, 11, 14, 16-21 and respectfully request consideration on the merits in due course. Applicants also note that at least claim 1 remains generic and remains patentably distinct over the prior art of record and accordingly Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims related to additional species. Additionally, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any non-elected claims in a subsequently filed continuation or divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

1/31/06

(Reg. #37,697)

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